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## CLAIMS:

1. An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus comprising:
  - an ultrasonic probe;
  - 5 a transmitting/receiving device for driving the ultrasonic probe to transmit an ultrasonic pulse into a subject and receiving an ultrasonic echo from the subject to output received data;
  - an ultrasonic image producing device for producing an ultrasonic image from the resulting received data;
  - 10 a display device for displaying the produced ultrasonic image;
  - a freeze control device for maintaining a state displaying the last ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-on operation by an operator and resuming production/display of a new ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-off operation by the operator; and
  - 15 a freeze time duration measuring device for measuring and displaying time duration of the freeze state.
2. An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus comprising:
  - an ultrasonic probe;
  - 20 a transmitting/receiving device for driving the ultrasonic probe to transmit an ultrasonic pulse into a subject and receiving an ultrasonic echo from the subject to output received data;
  - an ultrasonic image producing device for producing an ultrasonic image from the resulting received data;
  - 25 a display device for displaying the produced ultrasonic image;
  - a freeze control device for maintaining a state displaying the last ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-on operation by an operator and resuming production/display of a new ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-off operation by the operator; and
  - 30 an elapsed-time-from-freeze-off measuring device for measuring and

displaying an elapsed time from freeze-off.

3. An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus comprising:

an ultrasonic probe;

5 a transmitting/receiving device for driving the ultrasonic probe to transmit an ultrasonic pulse into a subject and receiving an ultrasonic echo from the subject to output received data;

an ultrasonic image producing device for producing an ultrasonic image from the resulting received data;

10 a display device for displaying the produced ultrasonic image;

a freezing device for maintaining a state displaying the last ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-on command by an operator;

an operation-at-start-of-injection device for operation by the operator at the start of contrast agent injection; and

15 an elapsed-time-from-injection measuring device, which is not stopped even if freeze-on is commanded, for measuring and displaying time elapsed from an operation of the operation-at-start-of-injection device.

4. An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus comprising:

20 an ultrasonic probe;

a transmitting/receiving device for driving the ultrasonic probe to transmit an ultrasonic pulse into a subject and receiving an ultrasonic echo from the subject to output received data;

25 an ultrasonic image producing device for producing an ultrasonic image from the resulting received data;

a display device for displaying the produced ultrasonic image;

a freezing device for maintaining a state displaying the last ultrasonic image in response to a freeze-on command by an operator;

30 a time-measurement-start commanding/operating device for use by the operator to operate to command start of time measurement; and

an elapsed-time measuring device, which is not stopped even if freeze-on is commanded, for measuring and displaying time elapsed from an operation of the time-measurement-start commanding/operating device.

- 5                   5.     An ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus comprising:
- an ultrasonic probe;
- a transmitting/receiving device for driving the ultrasonic probe to transmit an ultrasonic pulse into a subject and receiving an ultrasonic echo from the subject to output received data;
- 10               an ultrasonic image producing device for producing an ultrasonic image from the resulting received data;
- a display device for displaying the produced ultrasonic image;
- an intermittent imaging control device for controlling the aforementioned device to produce an ultrasonic image at a frame rate less than one; and
- 15               an elapsed-time measuring device for measuring and displaying time elapsed from a time at which a currently displayed ultrasonic image was captured.